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Court Hears Suit Against LBJ Guard

CLEVELAND, Jan. 9 (UPI) —Federal Court Judge Ben C. Green heard evidence today in a damage suit in which Cleveland patrolman Joseph Mazzarella is seeking $50,000 from U.S. Secret Serviceman Rufus Youngblood.

Mazzarella filed a petition Sept. 30, 1966, contending he received back injuries when he was hit by an open car door held by Youngblood during a visit here by President Johnson Oct. 8, 1964.

In a deposition taken last summer in Washington, Youngblood acknowledged it was common procedure to keep one car door open during a motorcade.

Youngblood said, "We do this to prevent injury to the crowd. If we didn't, there is a good chance people would get their feet run over."

Youngblood added he did not recall a door hitting anyone during the visit to Cleveland.